

# South Carolina Migratory Game Bird Hunting Guidebook

## 2014 - 2015



# DNR

Get your Migratory Bird Permit (HIP)  
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**DNR**

## Disclaimer

The information contained in this booklet is provided as summary information. The specific laws governing Fish, Wildlife and Boating may be found in Title 50 SC Code. Discrepancies between the booklet and any statute or regulation shall be governed by the statute or regulation. To research laws, visit [www.scstatehouse.gov/code/statmast.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/statmast.htm). The SCDNR News Section will issue news releases to clarify any changes to regulations, errors or omissions in this booklet.

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### Region 1 - Clemson

Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Laurens, Abbeville, Greenwood, Union, Cherokee, McCormick, Edgefield counties  
Mailing Address: 311 Natural Resources Dr., Clemson, SC 29631 .....864-654-1671

### Region 2 - Florence

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Mailing Address: 295 S. Evander Dr., Florence, SC 29506 .....843-661-4766



### Region 3 - Columbia

Newberry, Saluda, Aiken, Lexington, Richland, Calhoun, Orangeburg, Barnwell, Allendale, Bamberg, Sumter, Clarendon counties  
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201  
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Wildlife .....803-734-3886  
Law Enforcement.....803-755-1822

### Region 4 - Charleston

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# General Regulations ~ Season Dates Summary

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## Mourning Dove

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**Sept. 1 – Sept. 6**

*12 Noon until Sunset*

**Sept. 7 – Oct. 11 • Nov. 15 – Nov. 29 • Dec. 13 – Jan. 15**

*½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset*

Daily bag limit – 15

Possession limit – 45

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## Crows

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**Nov. 1 – Mar. 1**

*½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset*

There is no daily bag limit. The use of electronic calls for crow hunting is permitted statewide on private land and WMA land.

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## Marsh Hens/Rails (Clapper, King, Sora & Virginia)

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**Sept. 8 – Sept. 12 • Oct. 6 – Dec. 9**

*½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset*

(King & Clapper)

Daily bag limit – 15

Possession limit – 45

(Sora & Virginia)

Daily bag limit – 25

Possession limit – 75

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## Common Moorhens & Purple Gallinules

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**Sept. 8 – Sept. 12 • Oct. 6 – Dec. 9**

*½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset*

Daily bag limit – 15

Possession limit – 45

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## Woodcock

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**Dec. 18 – Jan. 31**

*½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset*

Daily bag limit – 3

Possession limit – 9

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## Common Snipe (Wilson's)

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**Nov. 14 – Feb. 28**

*½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset*

Daily bag limit – 8

Possession limit – 24

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**! Nontoxic shot is not required when hunting Marsh hens/rails, Woodcock, Common snipe (Wilson's) and crows, except on certain National Wildlife Refuges. Please contact the Refuge for more information.**

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## Extended Falconry Season

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Falconry is a permitted means of taking ducks, coots and mergansers in South Carolina. The extended season for falconry shall be Nov. 1 through Nov. 14 and Nov. 30 through Dec. 5. Daily bag and possession limits for these birds shall not exceed 3 and 6 birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate. Statewide hunting hours shall be one half hour before sunrise to sunset.

# General Regulations ~ Season Dates Summary

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## Ducks (Excluding Sea Ducks), Coots and Mergansers

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**Nov. 22 – Nov. 29 • Dec. 6 – Jan. 25**

*½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset*

Duck Daily Bag Limit – 6 total, including no more than 4 mallards (2 hens), 2 pintails, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 1 black-bellied whistling duck, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, 2 scaup, and (1 black duck or 1 mottled duck).

Duck Possession limit – 18 total, including no more than 12 mallards (6 hens), 6 pintails, 3 fulvous whistling ducks, 3 black-bellied whistling ducks, 9 wood ducks, 6 redheads, 3 canvasbacks, 6 scaup and (3 black ducks or 3 mottled ducks or total of 3 of the species combined).

Coot Daily Bag Limit – 15. The possession limit is 45.

Merganser Daily Bag Limit – 5 (not to include more than 1 Hooded Merganser)

Possession limit – 15 (not to include more than 3 hooded mergansers)

There is no open season for harlequin ducks.

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## Early Teal

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**Sept. 12 – Sept. 27**

*Sunrise until Sunset*

Daily bag limit – 6

Possession limit – 18

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## Early Canada Geese (Statewide)

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**Sept. 1 – Sept. 30**

*½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset*

Daily bag limit – 15

Possession limit – 45

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## Canada Geese/ White Fronted Geese (Late seasons)

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**Nov. 22 – Nov. 29 • Dec. 6 – Jan. 25 • Feb. 8 – Feb. 23**

*½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset*

Daily bag limit – 5 (not to include more than 2 white-fronted geese)

Possession limit – 15 (not to include more than 6 white-fronted geese)

**REVISED CANADA GOOSE EXCLUSION ZONE FOR CLARENDON AND ORANGEBURG COUNTIES (See Map on Page 4).**

**East of US 301:** That portion of Clarendon County bounded to the North by S-14-25; to the East by Hwy 260; and to the South by the markers delineating the channel of the Santee River.

**West of US 301:** That portion of Clarendon County bounded on the North by S-14-26 extending southward to that portion of Orangeburg County bordered by Hwy 6.

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## Blue & Snow Geese

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**Nov. 22 – Nov. 29 • Dec. 6 – Jan. 25**

*½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset*

Daily bag limit – 25

Possession limit – no limit

# General Regulations ~ Season Dates Summary

## Swans

**There is NO OPEN SEASON on Swans!**

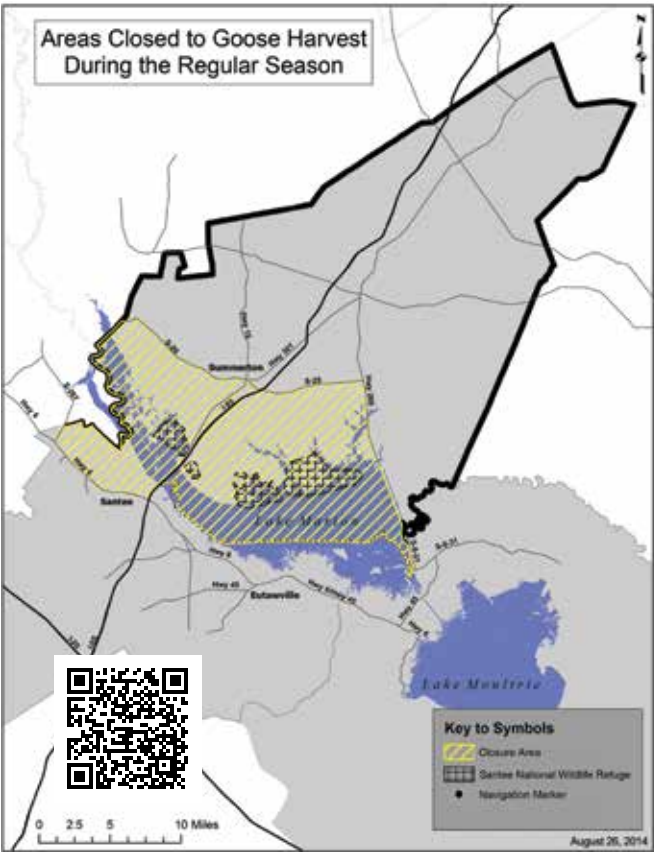
## Brant

**Dec. 27 – Jan. 25**  
*½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset*  
Daily bag limit – 2  
Possession limit – 6

## Sea Ducks (eiders, scoters & long-tailed ducks)

**Oct. 11 – Jan. 25**  
*½ Hour before Sunrise until Sunset*  
Daily bag limit – 7  
(not to include more than 4 scoters)  
Possession limit – 21  
(not to include more than 12 scoters)

Sea ducks taken outside of the regular duck season may be hunted only in Atlantic Ocean waters separated from any shore, island or emergent vegetation by at least one mile of open water. The shooting of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power in the designated sea duck zone is allowed.



## Youth-Only Waterfowl Hunting Days

**Daily and possession bag limits are as indicated above.**

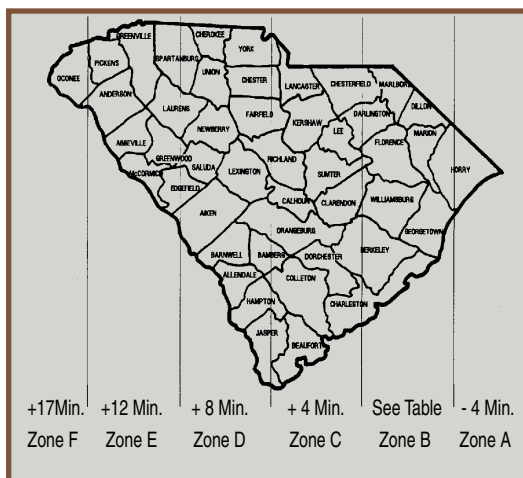
**State Youth Day:** Nov. 15, 2014. Only hunters 17 years of age or younger may hunt waterfowl (ducks, coots, & mergansers) on this day. The youth(s) must be accompanied by an adult of at least 21 years of age. The adult is not allowed to carry a gun or hunt, but must be properly licensed, including state and federal duck stamps. Youth who are 16 and 17 years of age who hunt on this day are not required to be licensed or have a state waterfowl stamp but must possess a Federal Waterfowl Stamp and Migratory Bird Permit.

**Federal Youth Days:** Jan. 31, 2015 & Feb. 7, 2015. Only hunters 15 years of age or younger may hunt waterfowl (ducks and geese) on these days. The youth(s) must be accompanied by an adult of at least 18 years of age. The adult is not allowed to carry a gun or hunt, and does not have to be licensed.

# General Regulations ~ Sunrise/Sunset Table

	SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		JANUARY		FEBRUARY	
DAY	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM	Rise AM	Set PM
01	655	745	714	704	738	629	704	513	722	525	715	552
02	655	743	715	703	639	528	705	513	723	525	714	553
03	656	742	715	702	639	527	706	513	723	526	713	554
04	656	741	716	701	640	526	707	513	723	527	713	555
05	657	739	717	659	641	525	708	513	723	528	712	556
06	658	738	717	658	642	525	708	513	723	528	711	557
07	658	737	718	657	643	524	709	513	723	529	710	558
08	659	735	719	655	644	523	710	514	723	530	710	559
09	700	734	720	654	645	522	711	514	723	531	709	600
10	700	733	720	653	646	522	711	514	723	532	708	601
11	701	731	721	652	646	521	712	514	723	533	707	601
12	702	730	722	650	647	520	713	514	723	534	706	602
13	702	729	722	649	648	520	713	515	723	534	705	603
14	703	727	723	648	649	519	714	515	723	535	704	604
15	703	726	724	647	650	519	715	515	722	536	703	605
16	704	725	725	646	651	518	715	516	722	537	702	606
17	705	723	725	644	652	517	716	516	722	538	701	607
18	705	722	726	643	653	517	717	516	722	539	700	608
19	706	721	727	642	654	517	717	517	721	540	659	609
20	707	719	728	641	655	516	718	517	721	541	658	609
21	707	718	729	640	655	516	718	518	721	542	657	610
22	708	716	729	639	656	515	719	518	720	543	656	611
23	709	715	730	638	657	515	719	519	720	544	655	612
24	709	714	731	637	658	515	720	519	719	545	654	613
25	710	712	732	636	659	514	720	520	719	546	653	614
26	711	711	733	635	700	514	721	520	718	547	651	614
27	711	710	733	634	701	514	721	521	718	548	650	615
28	712	708	734	633	702	514	721	522	717	548	649	616
29	713	707	735	632	703	514	722	522	717	549		
30	713	706	736	631	703	513	722	523	716	550		
31			737	630			722	524	716	551		

This chart has been adjusted for Daylight Savings Time. EST=Eastern Standard Time.



Knowing the exact times of sunrise and sunset is critical to setting hunting activities by the natural time clock. The map shows six time zones for our state. Sunrise and sunset for Zone B are shown in the **ZONE B table**. To determine the exact sunrise and sunset time for zones A, C, D, E, and F, add or subtract the minutes shown for each zone on the map to the time shown in the ZONE B table. **EXAMPLE ONLY** - November 1, Zone B sunrise = 7:38 a.m. For Zone A sunrise subtract four (-4) minutes = 7:34 a.m.

# Doves of South Carolina

## Mourning Dove:

### Description:

- Length: 10.5 inches
- Sexes similar
- Medium-sized, slender with very thin neck
- Black bill
- Feeds on grass seed and waste grain
- Distinct pointed tail

**Distribution:** Statewide most abundant in agricultural settings.

**Legal Status:** Game Bird: Seasons set annually. Daily aggregate bag limit for mourning doves and white-winged doves is 15.



## White-winged dove:

### Description:

- Length: 10 inches
- Sexes similar
- Adult similar to juvenile
- Large, chunky dove
- Fairly long, black bill
- Pale blue, teardrop-shaped orbital ring to eye
- Pale gray-brown head, neck, back, belly, and upperwings, with darker brown primaries
- Long dark mark on lower face below eye
- Purplish iridescence on neck
- Bold white wing patch, visible at rest, formed by pale secondary coverts
- Long tail is slightly rounded at tip
- Dark brown tail with white corners bordered above by black line

**Distribution:** Southwest U.S., TX, Gulf Coast States to Florida – Uncommon visitor to South Carolina.

**Legal Status:** Game Bird: Seasons set annually. Daily aggregate bag limit for mourning doves and white-winged doves is 15.



## Ethical Question: How Close Is Too Close?

Although there is no law concerning the distance a hunter must be away from a residence when dove hunting, you should never be so close that your shot is falling on the roof of a house or yard where someone may be standing. Remember, what goes up, must come down. Studies have shown that #8 lead shot (the typical dove load) can travel as far as 200 yards.

Shoot away from residences, roads and other areas so that your shot will not fall where it is not wanted.

**Hunting safety is no accident!**

## Eurasian Collared Doves

### Description:

- Length: 12 inches
- Pale gray head and underparts
- Thin black collar with white upper border
- Gray upperparts
- Dark primaries
- Long, squared tail-undersurface with black base and white tip; upper surface gray with white outer tips
- Sexes similar
- Established in southern Florida and expanding northward



**Distribution:** Throughout South Carolina – Most common in outer coastal plain, but locally abundant throughout.

**Legal Status:** Unprotected. May be harvested along with mourning doves and white-winged doves, but does not count in daily bag limit.

## Rock Dove, Rock Pigeon or Common Pigeon

### Description:

- Length: 12-14 inches
- Color variable; most are bluish gray with black bands on wings and a black tip to the tail
- Wings broad but pointed
- Gray-black bill
- Sexes similar

**Distribution:** Statewide. Common in cities, towns, around grain bins and cattle feed lots.

**Legal Status:** Unprotected. May be harvested along with mourning doves and white-winged doves, but does not count in daily bag limit.



## Common Ground Dove:

### Description:

- Length: 5.5 inches
- Small, chunky dove
- Black-tipped orange bill
- Gray-brown back and upperwings
- Scaly appearance to breast and head
- Black spotting on wing coverts
- Cinnamon inner webs of primaries visible in flight, and occasionally at rest
- Cinnamon wing linings
- Short tail is slightly rounded at tip
- Tail is brown centrally, with black edges and white corners



**Distribution:** Throughout coastal plain. Most common in outer coastal plain. Rarely in piedmont.

**Legal Status:** Protected non-game.

## Ducks of South Carolina



### **Mallard drake**

Look for a green head and a sharp contrast between the chestnut breast and gray belly.

### **Mallard**

Length – 24 inches



### **Mallard hen**

### **Black Duck**

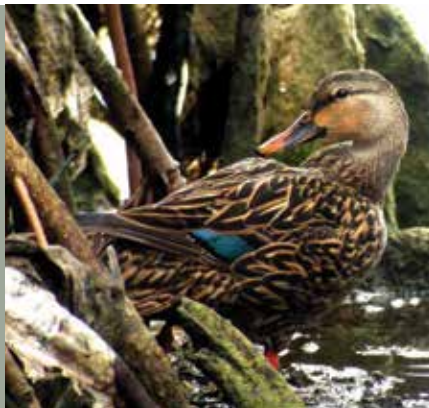
Length – 24 inches

Looks like a dark version of a mallard hen. White underwings and pale head contrast with a dark body. Often flies with mallards. Hens and drakes have a similar appearance.



### **Mottled Duck**

Mottled ducks are generally found on the coast of South Carolina, but are occasionally taken inland in our state. Drake and hen mottled ducks look like hen mallards, but the body feathers are a little darker than the mallard, yet not as dark as a black duck, and have the characteristic mottling shown in this photograph. The wing patch has a blue-green tint, no front white bar and a rear faded white stripe may be present.

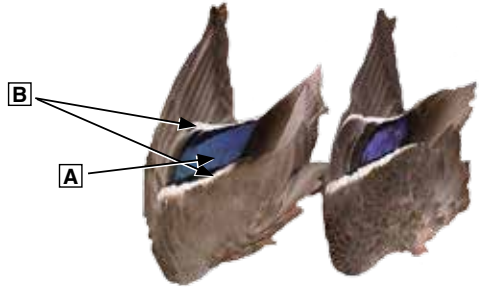


*Waterfowl Illustrations by USFWS/Bob Hines*

## Identifying Hen Mallards, Black & Mottled Ducks

The following characteristics may be used in identifying these species:

### Hen Mallard



**A** Blue speculum

**B** White leading and trailing edge

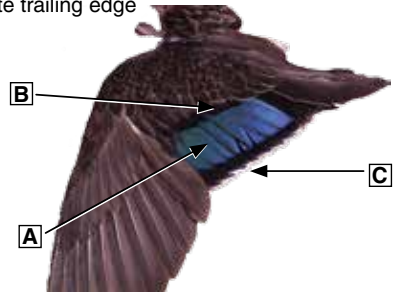
### Mottled Duck



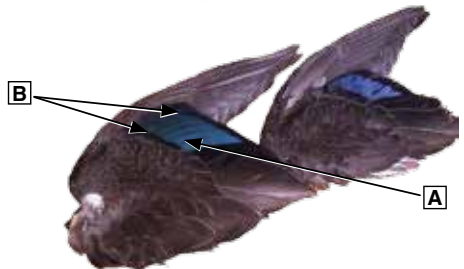
**A** Blue to green speculum

**B** Black leading edge

**C** A white trailing edge



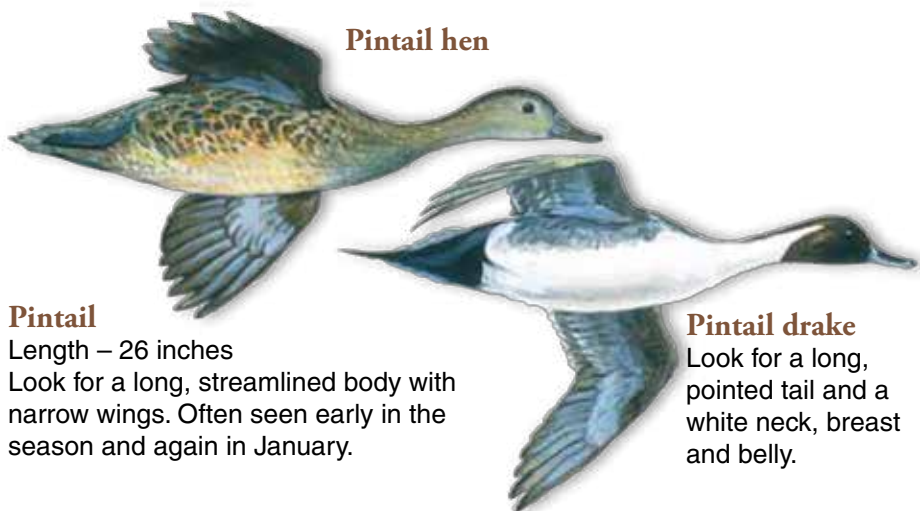
### Black Duck



**A** Purple to violet speculum

**B** Black leading and trailing edge, a faint white line on trailing edge may be present

## Ducks of South Carolina



**Pintail hen**

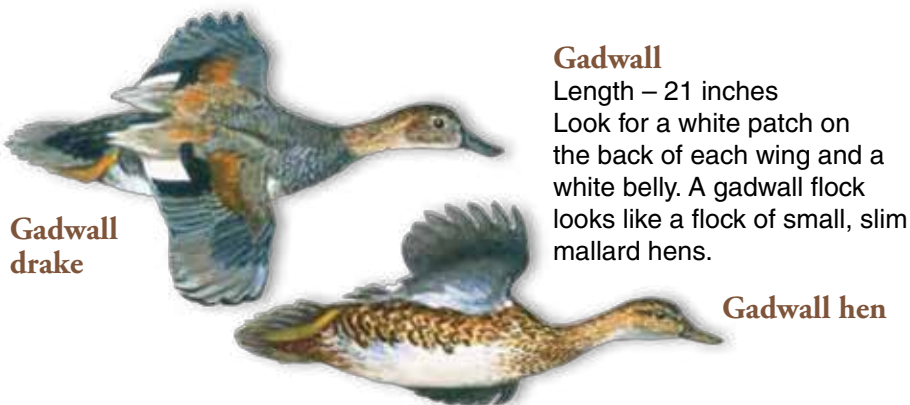
### **Pintail**

Length – 26 inches

Look for a long, streamlined body with narrow wings. Often seen early in the season and again in January.

### **Pintail drake**

Look for a long, pointed tail and a white neck, breast and belly.



**Gadwall drake**

### **Gadwall**

Length – 21 inches

Look for a white patch on the back of each wing and a white belly. A gadwall flock looks like a flock of small, slim mallard hens.

**Gadwall hen**

### **Wood Duck**

Length – 18½ inches

Frequents woods along streams or flooded timber. Commonly breeds in South Carolina.



**Wood duck drake**

Look for a long tail, a large head held high in flight and a white belly and chin.

### **Wood duck hen**

Frequently emits a long squealing call in flight.

### Wigeon

Length – 21 inches

Look for a showy white belly and a light blue bill tipped with black. Generally seen in small flocks and taken in low numbers.



**Wigeon hen**



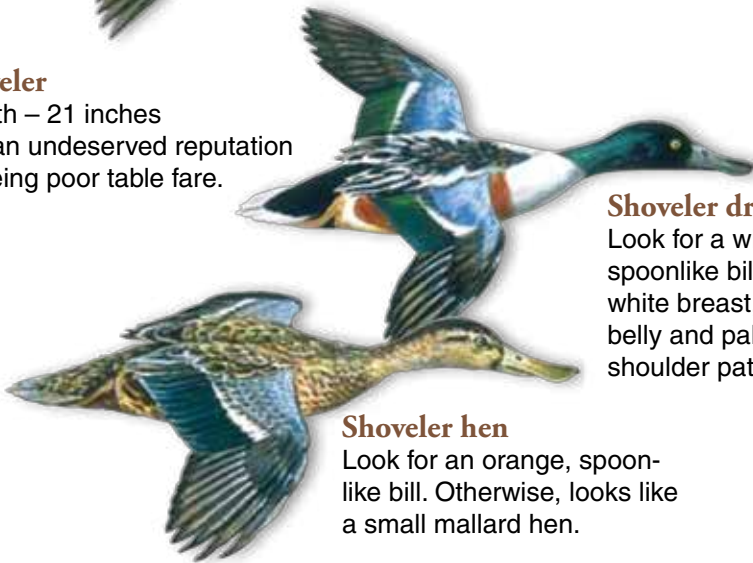
### Wigeon drake

Look for white patches on the shoulder, white forehead and a green eye band.

### Shoveler

Length – 21 inches

Has an undeserved reputation for being poor table fare.



### Shoveler drake

Look for a wide, spoonlike bill, a white breast, a dark belly and pale blue shoulder patches.

### Shoveler hen

Look for an orange, spoon-like bill. Otherwise, looks like a small mallard hen.



**Goldeneye drake**

### Common Goldeneye

Length – 19 inches

Distinctive wing-whistling sound in flight has earned the name of “whistlers.” These are active, strongwinged fliers moving singly or in small flocks. Generally seen on large rivers and lakes. Look for chunky body, fast direct flight, flash of white on wing.

## Ducks of South Carolina

### Blue-winged Teal

Length – 16 inches  
Look for rapid, twisting flight in dense flocks. Shoulders are pale blue. Less than one third the size of a mallard.



**Blue-winged teal drake**

**Blue-winged teal hen**



**Green-winged teal hen**



**Green-winged teal drake**

### Green-winged Teal

Length – 15 inches  
A fast duck that flies in dense flocks similar to those of blue-winged teal. Both sexes appear pale underneath and dark on top. Two pale lines on the top of wings are often visible. Teal prefer shallow water and are common in rice fields.

### Canvasback drake

Look for a red head, a pale colored body with a dark breast.



### Canvasback

Length – 22 inches  
Look for a sloped forehead and a dark bill. Wingbeats are noisy and rapid.



**Canvasback hen**

The same distinctive profile as the drake.



**Redhead  
drake**

### **Redhead**

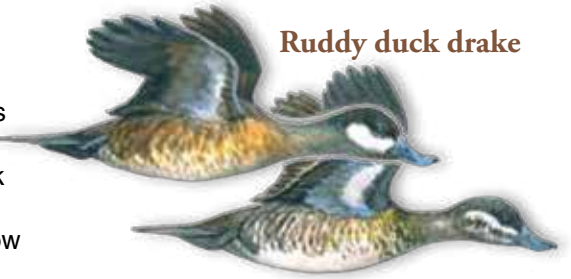
Length – 20 inches  
Looks similar to a canvasback except its forehead is more rounded. Its bill is blue with a white and black tip. Occasionally seen on reservoirs and deep waters.



**Redhead hen**

### **Ruddy Duck**

Length – 15½ inches  
When flying, their small wings stroke so fast they resemble bumblebees. Hens and drakes are similar in appearance during fall. Look for white cheek patch on males. Often seen on minnow ponds and large lakes with buffleheads.



**Ruddy duck drake**

**Ruddy duck  
hen**



**Bufflehead  
drake**

Bold black-and-white pattern.

**Bufflehead hen**

### **Bufflehead**

Length – 14½ inches  
Small, fast-flying duck. Look for white on its head and wings. Plump appearance. Often seen with ruddy ducks.

## Ducks of South Carolina

### Ring-necked Duck

Length – 17 inches

Swift, erratic flight. Look for a dark head and breast with a white belly. Dark back and wings help distinguish this duck in flight from scaup.

Often seen in rice fields and agricultural reservoirs.

**Ring-necked drake**

**Ring-necked hen**



### Scaup

Length – 18½ inches

Looks similar to a ring-necked duck but with a white back, bright blue bill and white on its wings.

**Scaup drake**

### Scaup hen

Look for a distinct white face patch.



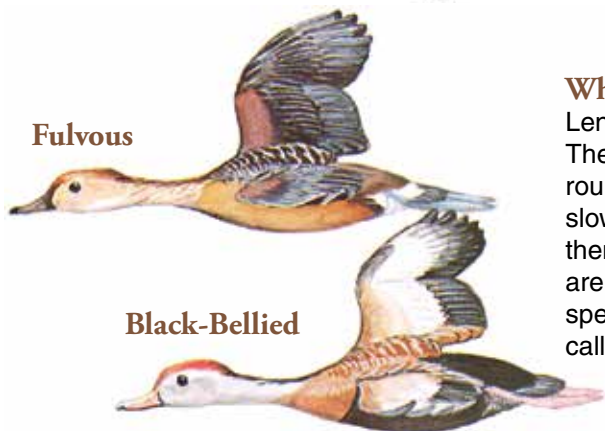
**Fulvous**

### Whistling Ducks

Length - 18 - 19 inches

The trailing legs and rounded wings of these slow flying ducks makes them look bigger than they are. Sexes are alike. Both species have shrill whistling calls.

**Black-Bellied**



## Hooded Merganser

Length – 21½ inches

Mergansers have narrow, pointed bills. A hooded merganser is small with a “hood,” and has black and white on each wing patch feather.



**Hooded  
merganser  
hen**

**Hooded  
merganser  
drake**

## Red-breasted Merganser

Length – 23 inches

Uncommon. Flight is strong and direct, usually low over the water. Difficult to distinguish in flight from the common merganser. Female's head and neck are paler than female common merganser.



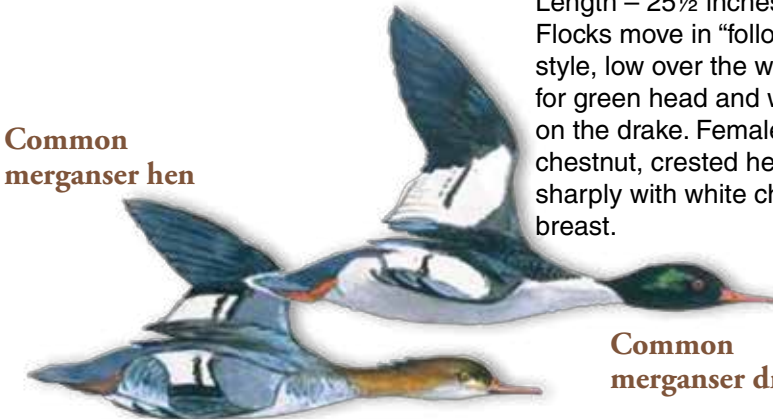
**Red-breasted  
merganser  
hen**

**Red-breasted  
merganser  
drake**

## Common Merganser

Length – 25½ inches

Flocks move in “follow the leader” style, low over the water. Look for green head and white body on the drake. Female's bright chestnut, crested head contrasts sharply with white chin and breast.



**Common  
merganser  
hen**

**Common  
merganser  
drake**

# Ducks of South Carolina

## Sea Ducks

Sea ducks include scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks. They winter primarily along the coast.

### White-winged scoter hen



### White-winged scoter

Length – 21½ inches

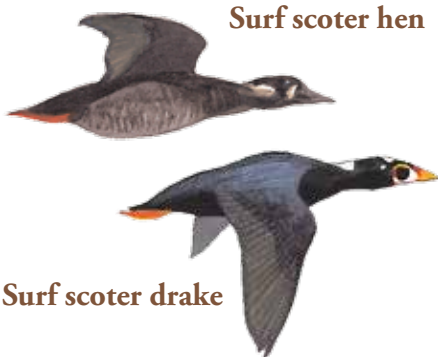
The largest scoter, with long bill and concave forehead. White secondaries unique and usually visible even on swimming birds.

### White-winged scoter drake

### Surf scoter

Length – 19½ inches

Like all scoters, these birds move along our coasts in loose flocks, stringing into irregular, wavy lines. Drakes can be distinguished from other scoters by two white patches on their head and the bright color of the bill.



### Surf scoter hen

### Surf scoter drake

### Black scoter hen



### Black scoter

Length – 19½ inches

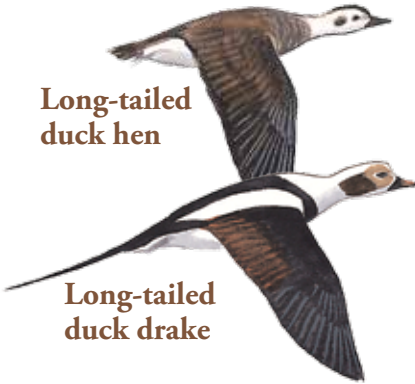
The smallest, most compact scoter with relatively small bill and rounded head. In flight, drakes appear all black except for the flash of the slight gray underwing and bright yellow swelling at the base of the upper bill.

### Black scoter drake

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## Ducks of South Carolina

**Long-tailed  
duck hen**



**Long-tailed  
duck drake**

### **Long-tailed duck**

Length – 20½ inches

A slim, brightly plumaged sea duck. Smaller than the scoters or eiders. Flight is swift and low with constantly changing flock formations. One of the most vocal of sea ducks; drakes have a loud pleasant *caloo, caloo*, constantly heard.

### **Common eider**

Length – 23½ inches

Our largest duck; heavy-bodied, with wedge-shaped head profile created by long bill. Male is unmistakable, with black belly and white back, upper wing and hip patch.



**Common  
eider drake**



**Common  
eider hen**

## Geese of South Carolina

**Brant**



### **Brant**

Length – 24-25 inches

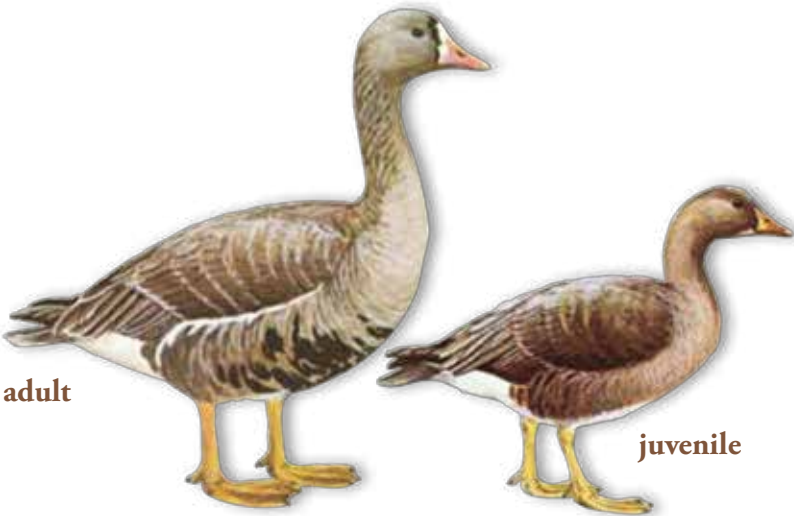
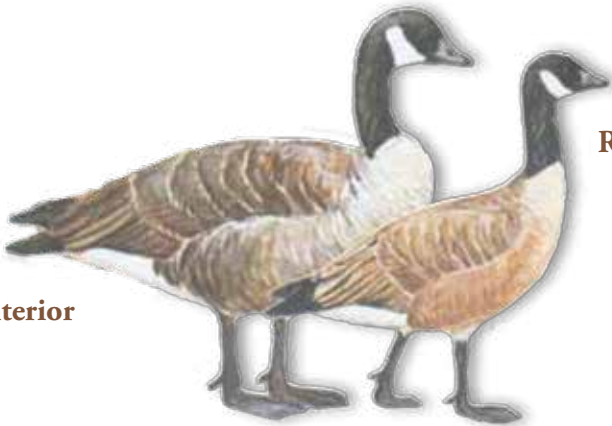
These are sea geese. The Atlantic race generally winters from Virginia northward. We occasionally see Brant in SC, but not often. Head, neck and breast essentially all black, with small white "necklace" (not visible from a distance).

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# Geese of South Carolina

## Canada Goose

Black head and neck is marked with distinctive white “chin strap” stretching from ear to ear. Like other geese, sexes look alike. South Carolina has three populations of Canada geese; a resident population and two migratory populations, both of which are considered to be interior geese. Richardson’s geese, which are the smallest, weighing 4-5 pounds are seldomly seen in South Carolina.



## White-fronted Goose (specklebelly)

Both the adult and juvenile are grayish brown with tails edged with white. Adults have a distinct white face patch and barring on the belly that gives the bird its name. The yellowish legs and bill of the juvenile distinguish it from the juvenile blue goose.

### Snow Goose (white color phase)

The adult's body is white with black wing tips, a pink bill with a dark grin patch and pinkish red legs. In early fall, the juvenile is dingy white with black wing tips. The dingy feathers are replaced last on the top of the head. The legs and bill of the juvenile are grayish brown.



adult



juvenile

### Blue Goose (blue color phase of snow goose)

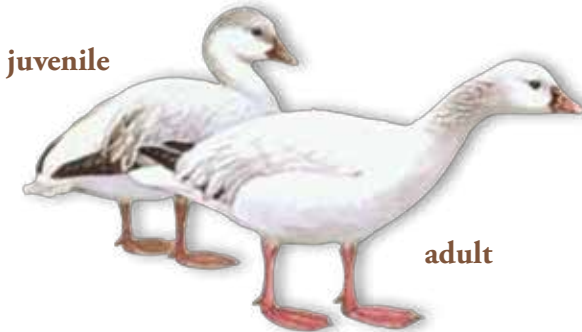
The adult has a slate gray body with a white head, black wing tips, variable amounts of white on its belly, a pink bill and red legs. The juvenile has a sooty blue-gray body with a white chin spot and grayish brown legs and bill.



adult



juvenile



juvenile

adult

### Ross' Goose

This goose looks like a small snow goose. Look for a smaller body size, a shorter bill and bumps at the base of the bill. The Ross' goose lacks the dark grin patch of the snow goose bill.

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## Where can I find a license vendor?

There are 500 license vendors across the state, these include hunting and fishing supply stores, sporting goods stores, some discount chain stores and regional SCDNR offices. A list by county of license vendors is available at [www.dnr.sc.gov](http://www.dnr.sc.gov). Click the red BUY tab.

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## How can I buy a license online or by telephone?

Licenses may be purchased online at [www.dnr.sc.gov](http://www.dnr.sc.gov). Click the red BUY tab. Licenses may also be purchased by calling 1-866-714-3611. This toll-free number is available 24 hours a day/7 days each week. Payment must be made with a Discover Card, Mastercard or Visa Card. In addition to the cost of the licenses and permits, there is a \$3.00 nonrefundable charge for each transaction.

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## What information do I need to buy a license?

You will need your SCDNR customer Identification number (if available), driver's license or state issued identification card, hunter education certificate (if required) and social security number. This information will be needed regardless of where you purchase your license.

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## How do I buy a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting & Conservation Stamp?

Federal stamps are available at select US Post offices, by calling 1-800-STAMP24 (782-6724) or online at [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com). Electronic stamps bought in other states are not valid in SC.

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## What licenses can I use immediately?

A license or permit that does not require a tag or stamp can be used once purchased. Customers buying licenses by phone receive an order number that is valid for 14 days or until they receive their SCDNR license by US mail.

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## How do I replace a lost license?

A duplicate license may be obtained from any license vendor, the fee is \$3.00. The duplicate license will display all licenses bought up to that point. Replacement tags must be

obtained through a SCDNR regional office. If you lose your federal waterfowl stamp you must purchase a new stamp.

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## Do I qualify as a resident?

A person who is a domiciled (permanent) resident of South Carolina for at least 30 consecutive days is considered a resident. Proof of residency at license vendors is your unexpired State of South Carolina Driver's License or Identification Card. Other means of proving residency can be submitted to a SCDNR regional office.

Ownership of South Carolina real estate or payment of county property taxes for real estate by a person living outside of the state does not qualify the owner as a resident.

The following also qualify as residents: a.) Military personnel and their dependents stationed in SC for 60 days or longer. A valid military ID must be presented when applying for your license. b.) Students enrolled full time in a SC educational institution. A valid student ID must be presented when applying for your license.

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## When does my license expire?

The license year begins July 1, 2014 and ends June 30, 2015. Regardless of the date sold, annual licenses expire June 30, 2015. 3-Year Hunting Licenses will expire on June 30 of the third year.

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## Are there any additional residency requirements for other licenses?

To qualify for a 3-Year or lifetime license you must be a domiciled (permanent) resident for at least 180 consecutive days. A disability license requires you to be a domiciled resident for at least 365 consecutive days. Additional information and applications for lifetime and disability licenses are available in the SCDNR Rules & Regulations publication, from a SCDNR Regional office or online at [www.dnr.sc.gov](http://www.dnr.sc.gov). Click on the Licensing link.

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## Who needs a hunter education card?

Anyone born after June 30, 1979, must present proof of the successful completion of a hunter education course before a license with a hunting privilege can be purchased. Hunters under 16 years of age are not required to have hunter education.

For more information on hunter education please visit [www.dnr.sc.gov/education/hunted.html](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/education/hunted.html) or call 1-800-277-4301.

### **I want to hunt with a licensed hunter but cannot take a hunter education course before the hunt. Can I still buy a hunting license?**

A one-time exemption to the hunter education requirement is available to hunters by applying for an Apprentice License. This license can only be used when you are accompanied in the field by a SC licensed hunter who is: not licensed as an apprentice hunter, is at least 21 years of age, has not been convicted of a hunting or hunter education violation, stays within a distance that enables uninterrupted, unaided visual and oral communication with the apprentice hunter and provides adequate direction to the apprentice hunter.

### **What is the Migratory Bird Permit?**

Each year, before hunting migratory game birds, including doves and waterfowl, hunters 16 years of age and older are required to obtain a Migratory Bird Permit. Hunters are asked to complete a short survey, also known as the Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey, about migratory game bird hunting in SC for the previous year. The survey is part of the license sales process when a hunting privilege is included. A HIP certification from another state is not valid in SC and hunters are required to register for HIP in each state they hunt migratory game birds.

Hunters 64 years of age or older who hold a lifetime hunting, lifetime combination, senior, gratis or Catawba license are not required to obtain a migratory bird permit unless hunting on federal land.

### **A waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must carry:**

1. A valid South Carolina Annual Migratory Waterfowl Permit (\$5.50) or Lifetime Migratory Waterfowl Permit (\$110) endorsement on their license;
  2. A valid federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (\$15) signed in ink across the face of the stamp;
  3. A valid South Carolina Migratory Bird Permit (No Cost) endorsement on their license;
  4. One of the following hunting licenses:
    - Resident Annual State Hunting License, \$12
    - Resident 3-Year State Hunting License, \$36
    - Lifetime State Hunting, \$300
    - Resident Annual Apprentice Hunting License, 12
    - Resident Annual Combination License, \$25
    - Resident 3-Year Combination License, \$75
    - Lifetime Combination License, \$500
    - Resident Annual Sportsman license, \$50
    - Resident 3-Year Sportsman license, \$150
    - Senior License, \$9 (Includes Migratory Waterfowl Permit)
    - Gratis License, No Fee (Includes Migratory Waterfowl Permit)
    - Nonresident Annual State Hunting License, \$125
    - Nonresident 10-Day State Hunting License, \$75
    - Nonresident 3-Day State Hunting License, \$40
    - Nonresident Annual Apprentice Hunting License, \$125
  5. In addition to the above licenses and permits, when hunting on a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) one of the following endorsements on their license:
    - Resident Annual Wildlife Management Area Permit, \$30.50\*
    - Resident 3-Year Wildlife Management Area Permit, \$91.50\*
    - Nonresident Annual Wildlife Management Area Permit, \$76
- \*The WMA permit is included in the Resident Annual and 3-Year Sportsman License.

# General Migratory Bird Regulations

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## Federal Regulations Overview

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In addition to state regulations, the following federal rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting and storing of migratory game birds.

**Caution: The following material is only a summary. Each hunter should also consult the actual Federal Regulations, which may be found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20, available at <http://www.fws.gov/hunting/whatres.html>.**

## Illegal Hunting Methods

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No persons shall take migratory game birds:

With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;

- 1) With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells.
- 2) From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;
- 3) From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;
- 4) From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased;
- 5) By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
- 6) By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.
- 7) By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.
- 8) By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

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## What Terms Do I Need To Understand?

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### Daily bag limit

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You can take only one daily bag limit in any one day. This limit determines the maximum number of gamebirds of a single species, or combination of species, you may legally have in your possession while in the field or while in route back to your car, hunting camp, home or other destination.

### Aggregate Daily Bag Limit

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The maximum number of migratory game birds permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season when such person hunts in more than one specified geographic area and/or for more than one species for which a combined daily bag limit is prescribed. The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit prescribed for any one species or for any one specified geographic area in which taking occurs.

### Possession Limit

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The maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species, or a combination of species, permitted to be possessed by any one person.

### Aggregate Possession Limit

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The maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species, or combination of species, taken in the United States permitted to be possessed by any one person when taking and possession occurs in more than one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed. The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the species or specified geographic areas in which taking and possession occurs.

### Wanton Waste

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You must make a responsible effort to retrieve all migratory game birds that you kill or cripple and keep these birds in your actual custody while in the field. You must immediately kill any wounded birds that you retrieve and count those birds toward your daily bag limit.

### Wanton Waste And Trespass

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**The requirement to retrieve downed migratory birds does not allow you to trespass onto the lands of another. If you hunt near property lines, you are placing yourself at risk of committing wanton waste or trespass.**

### Tagging

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You cannot put or leave waterfowl at any place or in the custody of another person unless you tag the birds with your signature, address, number of birds identified by species and the date you killed them.

# General Migratory Bird Regulations

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## Rallying

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You cannot hunt migratory game birds that have been concentrated, driven, rallied or stirred up with a motorized vehicle or sailboat.

## Dressing

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You cannot completely field-dress migratory game birds before taking them from the field. The head or one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to the birds while you transport them to your home or to a facility that processes waterfowl.

## Dual violation

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A violation of State migratory game birds hunting regulations is also a violation of Federal regulations.

## Personal Abode

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One's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one's temporary or transient place of abode or dwelling such as a hunting club, or any clubhouse, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel, or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure or business trip.

## Migratory Bird Preservation Facility

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1. Any person who, at their residence or place of business and for hire or other consideration; or
2. Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility or locker plant which, for hire or other consideration; or
3. Any hunting club which, in the normal course of operations; receives, possesses, or has in custody migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment.

## Protected birds

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Federal law prohibits the killing of non-game migratory birds. Protected birds that you could encounter while waterfowl hunting include songbirds, eagles, hawks, owls, vultures, herons, egrets and woodpeckers.

### If you Shoot a Banded Migratory Game Bird

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Call 800-327-BAND (2263) or visit [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov). Give the band number and how, when and where it was recovered.

You will receive a certificate of appreciation with information about the bird. The band is yours to keep. Information from bands is used to determine population abundance, productivity and migration patterns.



## Baiting Laws

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Federal rules prohibit the taking of migratory game birds by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

**It is legal to take migratory game birds including waterfowl, coots and cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:**

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics);
- Standing, flooded or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

## Who is responsible?

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Hunters, guides and landowners are responsible for understanding and obeying regulations about baiting and knowing the conditions of the area to be hunted.

## What is baiting?

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**Baiting** means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

## What is a baited area?

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A **baited area** is any area on which salt, grain or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered, if that salt, grain or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

## For how long?

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An area is considered baited for ten days following the complete removal of all salt, grain or other feed.

## What about normal agricultural operations?

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**Normal agricultural operation** means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

# Migratory Bird Baiting Laws

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## What is a normal soil stabilization practice?

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A normal soil stabilization practice means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural erosion control. Agricultural erosion control typically involves seeding prior to leaf drop or defoliation, mowing or shredding of crop residue to cover seed, or seeding prior to crop harvest to result in soil-seed contact and/or covering of the seed.

**Top sowing of seed to control erosion on impoundment dikes, pond dams, roadways, logging decks, skid trails, power line rights-of-way, or construction sites may be considered erosion control if done according to Clemson Extension Service guidelines.**

## What is manipulation?

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**Manipulation** means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include, but are not limited to, mowing, shredding, disking, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning or herbicide treatments. The term manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

## What is considered natural vegetation?

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**Natural vegetation** means any non-agricultural, native or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. The term natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.



## Hunting over agricultural land?

Nothing in the baiting regulation prohibits the taking of any migratory game bird, including waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics); standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice.

## Hunting over agricultural land manipulated for wildlife management?

The baiting regulation does not prohibit the taking of any migratory game bird, EXCEPT waterfowl, coots and cranes, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

In order to understand the law's application, the sportsman should know the legal definition of "take," which refers to the attempt to take as well as the act of taking itself: "Take" means to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect.

Equally important to understanding the law is a familiarity with what is meant by **normal agricultural operations**: that is, what constitutes the recommended agricultural practices in South Carolina for planting corn, millet, wheat, sunflowers or other grains. **The Clemson University Extension Service is the authority for this in South Carolina and publishes an agricultural planting guide annually. There is a Clemson Extension Service Office in almost every county.**



# Dove Hunting and Baiting

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The greatest majority of dove shoots in South Carolina are held over three kinds of fields:

1. Harvested fields composed of combined or picked corn, combined soybean fields, or other fall harvested crops.
2. Fields where crops are grown and manipulated for wildlife management purposes.
3. Fields where wheat or other grains have recently been planted.

Usually the first two types of fields are easily identified as legal fields. The regulations permit shooting doves on or over standing crops, grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown, or grains found scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural planting or harvesting. The regulations also allow shooting doves on or over fields where shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat, other grain, or other feed has been distributed or scattered as the result of normal agricultural operations.

The third type of field, where wheat or other grains have recently been planted, often causes confusion. **Clemson Extension now considers the top sowing of wheat without covering to be a normal agricultural practice for wildlife planting as long as the seed is planted between October 1 and November 30 when evenly spread on a well-prepared seed bed established by heavy tilling. The Clemson Extension Service does not consider the top sowing of any other grain (ie- those outside of the small grains listed by Clemson Extension Service guidelines) without covering the seed to be a normal agricultural practice.**

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## The Law

The federal code of regulations addresses dove hunting in two sections, the first describing when dove hunting is not legal, the second describing when it is legal.

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## Illegal Dove Hunting

Baiting and the Baited Area – The following regulation states that baiting is illegal and then defines what baiting and a baited area is:

“No person shall take migratory game birds (of which the dove is one) by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area.”

“Baiting” shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or feed so as to constitute for such birds a lure, attraction or enticement to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

“Baited area” means any area where shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed whatsoever capable of luring, attracting or enticing such birds is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered.

Baiting by piling grain unfairly concentrates birds in a small area where they will be an easy target for the unethical hunter. Not only do some hunters tend to overshoot their limit on a baited field, but they enjoy an unfair advantage over hunters seeking their share of the resource in nearby legal fields.

The standard for establishing guilt for a person charged with hunting over bait is whether the person “knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.” A hunter is responsible for determining the legality of a field before hunting on the field. Seeds, grain or other feed broadcast on freshly-plowed ground is an obvious baiting violation, and would almost certainly meet the standard that any hunter hunting on the field “knows or reasonably should have known that the area is or has been baited.”

Baiting regulations are intended to provide equity among those competing for the dove resource, to encourage sound wildlife management practices, and to protect the dove population, a resource that federal and state agencies are required to protect by vigorous law enforcement.

New state and federal penalties apply to those convicted of hunting migratory birds over bait or baiting a field.

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### Legal Dove Hunting

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The second section defines two settings where hunting is legal over agricultural land. One is when the hunter shoots over crops just planted or harvested in a normal agricultural manner. The second is when a landowner grows crops using normal agricultural practices with the intent of manipulating them for wildlife management purposes.

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### What You Can Do

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Besides a sincere effort to understand and abide by the law, the sportsman can protect him/herself from inadvertent violations by observing a few precautions. For instance, when organizing a shoot or a club hunt, make sure you know what has been done to the dove field(s) and when. If possible, visit the field several days before the hunt either in the early morning or mid afternoon. If you are invited on a hunt, check with your host to find out the field's condition.

Anyone previewing a field before a hunt should look for the doves themselves. An unusual concentration will direct your attention to their reason for being there. If the doves are feeding on waste grain from a field that has been harvested, such as combined corn or soybeans, the field is legal. If the birds are feeding on fields where crops have actually been grown and manipulated so as to scatter the grain over the field, that is legal too.

## Dove Hunting and Baiting

**If a field has been top sown with wheat, make sure it was planted according to Clemson Extension Service guidelines between October 1 and November 30 when evenly spread on a well-prepared seed bed established by heavy tilling.**

Other fields to avoid are those with cracked grains or wheat placed in piles or strips. This is baiting in its most obvious form. Also steer clear of a field with any sign of rock salt in piles or strips. Because rock salt is lethal to mourning doves, using salt for bait is not only illegal under any circumstances, but inhumane and unethical. In freshly plowed or disked fields, be suspicious. This may be a field affected by the 10-Day Rule. That is, bait was placed in the field, the bait was removed, and then the field was plowed. The field is still not legal until 10 days after removal of all bait.

Finally, if the landowner or person preparing the field has any questions, they can direct their inquiries to any of the SCDNR offices listed in this brochure. If you are an invited guest, your questions concerning the legality of the field can best be answered by the person who prepared the field. In the event of a field check, the officers determination of the field's condition will only apply to the field at the time of inspection.



### Can I Use My Yard Chipper Shredder to Manipulate Crops in a Dove Field?

Yes. It is legal to use a yard chipper shredder (or similar device) to manipulate crops in a dove field, but you must manipulate the crop at the place in the field where the crop is grown. You may not transport the crop to another area of the field to shred it and you may not add any other grain, feed or seed to the chipper during this process.

For example, if you hand pick corn from a standing row, you must immediately place it in the yard chipper shredder and manipulate the corn cob adjacent to the stalk from which it was picked. You may not place the corn in a bucket or bag and move it to another portion of the field to be manipulated. Placing the corn in a bucket or in a bag is considered storage on the field where grown. The corn cannot legally be shredded onto the field after it has been stored in any manner.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can wheat be top sowed, not covered, and hunted?  
**Yes, if planted between Oct 1 and Nov 30 according to Clemson Extension Service guidelines when evenly spread on well-prepared seedbed established with heavy tilling.**
2. Can I shoot doves on areas where rye, ryegrass, wheat or other seeds have been top-sown to control erosion on dikes, pond dams, roadways, logging decks, skid trails, powerline rights-of-way, or construction sites?  
**Yes, as long as these areas are planted between Oct 1 and Nov 30 on a cultipacked surface and mulched with straw 1.5 tons/acre according to Clemson Extension Service guidelines for erosion control.**
3. After a corn field is combined and strips are plowed up and planted in wheat, is this considered a legal field?  
**Yes, if planted according to Clemson Extension Service guidelines.**
4. If a big field is plowed, but only part of it is planted, is this legal?  
**Yes, if the planting is done according to Clemson Extension Service guidelines.**
5. Can part of a field be bush hogged at different times such as four rows now and four rows later, and so on?  
**Yes. A crop grown on the field can be manipulated for wildlife management purposes.**
6. Can millet or corn be bush hogged and more millet or corn be added to the field?  
**No. No grain or feed of any kind can be added to a field. It is also illegal to remove grain from the field then return it to the field or to store grain on the field then return it to the field.**
7. Can doves be hunted on a field where corn or other grain has been placed to attract deer?  
**No. Although it is legal to bait deer in some parts of the state, this would be illegal for dove hunting.**
8. Can I plant millet or sunflowers during dove season and hunt over it?  
**No. Planting millet or sunflowers during the time period when dove hunting is in season is not a normal agricultural practice.**
9. Can I sow wheat in August and September, cover the seed, and shoot doves over it?  
**No. The Clemson Extension Service considers the earliest normal wheat planting date to be October 1.**
10. Can I burn or turn hogs or cattle into a crop grown on the field and hunt doves over it?  
**Yes. A crop grown on the field can be manipulated for wildlife management purposes.**

# Waterfowl Hunting and Baiting

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Waterfowl and other migratory birds are a national resource protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Federal regulations define key terms for hunters and land managers, and clarify conditions under which you may legally hunt waterfowl. As a waterfowl hunter or land manager, it is your responsibility to know and obey all Federal and State laws that govern the sport. Waterfowl baiting regulations apply to ducks, geese, swans, coots and cranes.

## **Can I manipulate crops in a field where waterfowl will be hunted?**

**NO. Federal regulations are more restrictive for waterfowl hunting than for hunting doves and other migratory game birds. While unharvested agricultural crops may be manipulated to attract doves for hunting, manipulation of an unharvested agricultural crop to attract waterfowl for hunting creates a baited area.**

## **What about natural vegetation?**

Natural vegetation is any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules.

Natural vegetation does not include planted millet (like browntop and Japanese millet) because of its use as both an agricultural crop and a species of natural vegetation for moist soil management. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years is considered natural vegetation. If you restore and manage wetlands as habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds, you can manipulate the natural vegetation in these areas and make them available for hunting. Mowing and burning of natural vegetation are common habitat management practices in South Carolina.

Natural vegetation does not include plants grown as agricultural crops. Under no circumstances can you hunt waterfowl over crops manipulated prior to a normal harvest. Nor can you hunt waterfowl over manipulated wildlife food plots or manipulated plantings for soil stabilization.

In South Carolina many hunters and landowners manage native vegetation and planted agricultural crops to attract waterfowl for hunting. The Federal law is different for the management of these two food sources and hunters should pay particular attention to the differences.

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## Shooting Hours

Shooting hours for waterfowl are 1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset except where noted during early seasons. Shooting hours are uniform statewide.

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## Legal Shot

**The possession of lead shot is prohibited for all waterfowl hunting, statewide.** Nontoxic shot (steel, bismuth or other Federally approved shot) is required for all waterfowl hunting.

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## Blind Regulations (SC Code of Laws 50-11-25)

It is unlawful to take migratory waterfowl from blinds or positions where the floor level of the blind or the position is:

- more than ten feet above surface level in or around freshwater; or
- more than five feet above the mean high water in or around saltwater.

A blind on public lands or waters must be constructed from biodegradable materials.

Once vacated, a blind on public lands or waters may be used by persons on a “first come, first served” basis.

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## Airboat Regulations (SC Code of Laws 50-21-860)

An “airboat” means a watercraft propelled by air pressure caused by a motor mounted on the watercraft aboveboard.

It is unlawful for a person to operate an airboat on the public waters of this State from the freshwater-saltwater dividing line, established by Section 50-17-30, seaward.

It is unlawful to operate an airboat on the waters of the Waccamaw, the Great Pee Dee, the Little Pee Dee, the Black and the Sampit Rivers in Georgetown and Horry Counties from one hour before legal sunset to one hour after legal sunrise and anytime during the season for hunting waterfowl.

It is unlawful to operate an airboat on the waters of that portion of Lake Marion and Santee Swamp west of the I-95 bridge upstream to the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers during the season for hunting waterfowl.

The provisions of 50-21-860 do not apply to the operation of airboats by law enforcement, emergency medical, civil defense, noxious weed control, military personnel, state and federally approved wildlife banding, surveying, biological research programs and private waters.

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## Duck stamp

If you are 16 or older, you must carry on your person an unexpired Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp. You must validate your duck stamp by signing it in ink across the face before hunting. You must also have a valid South Carolina Migratory Waterfowl Permit.

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## Waterfowl Hunting - Frequently Asked Questions

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1. **Can I hunt ducks or geese over a harvested corn or sorghum field?**

Yes, if the field was planted, harvested and any post harvest manipulation was in accordance with official recommendations of the Clemson Extension Service in South Carolina.

2. **Can I harvest part of the corn crop in my pond, leave the rest unharvested, and then flood and legally hunt over it?**

Yes. Fish and Wildlife Service Regulations allow you to harvest part of a crop in accordance with official recommendations of the Clemson Extension Service in South Carolina and legally hunt over the field, provided you do not manipulate the remaining unharvested crop.

3. **After a cornfield is combined, is it legal to mow the corn stubble prior to flooding the field?**

Yes. The Clemson Extension Service in South Carolina has stated that mowing of corn stubble is a normal post harvest agricultural manipulation.

4. **May I mow part of my unharvested cornfield to create open water areas for ducks to land?**

No. If any grain or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered that could serve as a lure or attraction for waterfowl to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them, such areas would be considered baited. The area would remain a baited area for ten days following the COMPLETE removal of all such grain or other feed. The mowing of unharvested corn (or any planted agricultural crop) for any purpose is an illegal manipulation of the crop and makes the field baited. Other illegal manipulations of unharvested crops include disking, shredding and burning.

5. **I planted Japanese millet in my duck pond last year. This year I didn't plant it and I have a "volunteer" stand in the same area, mixed in with the panic grass and other native vegetation. Can I legally mow and burn the millet along with the native vegetation?**

Yes. You may legally manipulate Japanese millet (and other agricultural millets) that has sprouted voluntarily the second year after planting. You may not manipulate millets the year in which you plant them.

6. **Can I camouflage my duck blind with corn stalks?**

Yes. It is legal to camouflage your duck blind with corn stalks provided that your use of the corn stalks does not expose, deposit, distribute, or scatter grain.

7. **Can I mow paths through my unharvested corn crop to make it easier to get to the blind?**

No. Mowing pathways through an unharvested cornfield or any other unharvested planted agricultural crop is considered a manipulation of an unharvested agricultural crop. Any seed or grain scattered as a result would be considered bait. If you do this then the field is considered baited.

**8. If I accidentally knock down corn while going to and from my blind, is the field considered baited?**

No. Federal regulations allow for the take of waterfowl over unharvested or flooded unharvested agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds. Caution is warranted in this situation and you should make all possible efforts to minimize contact with crops. The excessive running of boats or riding across unharvested crops to create paths to the blind can result in a baited field. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reserves the right to make the final determination.

**9. Can I turn hogs or cattle into an unharvested crop grown in the field, then flood it and hunt ducks over it?**

No. It is illegal to hunt waterfowl over crops that have been trampled by livestock or subjected to other manipulations that distribute, scatter or expose grain.

**10. Can I hunt ducks or geese over a dove field?**

You may hunt ducks and geese over a dove field if the grain present is the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting or post harvest manipulation. However, if the grain has been exposed by manipulating a standing crop then it would be illegal to hunt waterfowl over the field until 10 days after all the grain exposed by the manipulation is gone. For example: It would be legal to hunt geese and doves over a freshly combined corn field. It would be legal to hunt doves over a cornfield where standing corn has been mowed or chopped, but one could not hunt waterfowl until 10 days after the exposed corn is gone.

**11. May I use a portion of my waterfowl impoundment as a dove field and mow down some crop for September dove season then flood the remaining unharvested crop later in the fall for duck hunting?**

To be legal in this scenario, the impoundment would have to pass the 10-day rule for baiting. All of the grain exposed by manipulating the crop for doves would have to be gone at least 10 days before the field could be legally hunted for waterfowl. The land manager should be extremely careful when attempting to manage a waterfowl impoundment for both ducks and doves.

**12. If I am camping, how many ducks may I have in possession in my camp or ice chest?**

The possession limit for ducks in South Carolina is twice the daily bag limit. This is the number you may have in possession at your camp. You can only possess, have in custody or transport the daily bag limit at or between the place where taken (blind) and either; A) your principal means of land transportation (car) or B) your camp. The possession limit does not negate the hunter's restriction to shoot only the daily bag limit in any one day. If you break camp, and are traveling back to your car (principal means of land transportation) by ATV or boat, you may transport your possession limit. Any time you leave camp to hunt, birds left at the camp must have a tag attached signed by the hunter, stating the hunter's address with the date taken and the total number and species.

# Waterfowl Hunting on Certain Bodies of Water

## Hunting Waterfowl Is Prohibited Within Certain Distances Of Residences On Portions Or All Of The Following Bodies Of Water:

1. **Bear Creek** in Lancaster County (200 yards)
2. **Broadway Lake** in Anderson County (200 yards)
3. **Gills Creek** in Lancaster County (200 yards)
4. **Lake Greenwood** (200 yards)
5. **Lake Keowee** (200 yards)
6. **Lake Murray**
  - a. Newberry & Saluda Counties (200 yards)
  - b. Lexington & Richland Counties (350 yards)
7. **Lake Wateree** (200 yards)
8. **Lake Marion**
  - a. Potato Creek (200 yards)
  - b. Wyboo Creek (200 yards)
  - c. Dean Swamp in Clarendon County and adjacent to Santee Cooper Resort in Orangeburg County. (200 yards)
  - d. Public waters in Calhoun County from the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree Rivers downstream to Poplar Creek. (200 yards)
  - e. The coves immediately to the East of St. Julien Subd. Extension and Cypress Shores Marina. (200 yards)
  - f. **Taw Caw Creek in Clarendon County (No Hunting)**
  - g. **The cove immediately to the SE of the Indian Bluff Recreation site. (No Hunting)**
9. **Lake Moultrie** (200 yards)
10. **Lake Wylie** (200 yards)
11. **Murrell's Inlet Creek** in Georgetown County (100 yards)

**It is unlawful to hunt waterfowl on the lakes listed above within the distances provided unless a person has written permission from the owner and occupant of the dwelling. There are no exceptions to the distance restriction on Lake Keowee.**

### **Ethical Question: How Far Is Too Far?**

Many times, hunters take shots at waterfowl that are too far away. Commonly known by waterfowlers as “sky busting,” these shots either miss all together or end up crippling the bird so that it dies wastefully elsewhere. Hunters have a misconception that modern waterfowl loads allow for even farther shots. This is not necessarily true. Try limiting your shots to 30-45 yards. You will be more successful and your neighbor will thank you.

**Remember ethics preserve the hunter's opportunity to hunt.**

# 10 Commandments of Public Duck Hunting

### ***Rules to live by when you're hunting public land***

1. **Thou shalt not shoot another man's swing** – If your neighbor's working a flock that passes over your blind within range, let them go. It's common courtesy, and you never know when that neighbor's going to be built like Stone Cold Steve Austin and have a temper like Russell Crowe.
2. **Thou shall allow ample space between thyself and others** – This one's simple: Unless you're both willing to partner up, give the next guy room. And in most parts of the country, 50 yards isn't considered enough.
3. **Thou shalt know the effective range of thy own fowling piece** – They're called skybusters, these pseudo-hunters who shoot at anything within eyesight.
4. **Thou shalt not blow a duck call nonstop, nor at every bird and beast** – Sure, you paid \$20 for it, but that doesn't mean you have to get \$20 out of it every trip into the field, does it? Remember the immortal words of legendary outdoor writer Nash Buckingham: "A duck call in the hands of the unskilled is conservation's greatest asset."
5. **Thou shalt set up and tear down quickly and efficiently** – In other words, don't putter through the decoy spreads 5 minutes before shooting time or lolly-gag in your blocks for an hour just because you have to be back to work at 9 a.m.
6. **Thou shalt clean thy kill neither at the ramp nor in the parking lot** – We as hunters need to realize that a lot of non-consumptive users – birdwatchers, photographers, hikers, school groups – use our nation's public areas, and that the image we leave at the ramp or in the parking lot reflects on us as a whole.
7. **Thou shalt be familiar with and abide by waterfowl regulations** – Another no-brainer. Ignorance, says the wildlife officer, is no excuse; however, it can come with a hefty fine.
8. **Thou shalt know the area boundaries, and though tempted, stay within them** – This one's not only a public relations issue, but a legal one as well. If it's marked Keep Out... well, then, KEEP OUT.
9. **Thou shalt leave thy temper at home** – Think about it. Do you really want to get into a shouting match with a complete stranger that you know has a gun? Enough said.
10. **Thou shalt work harder than most** – Nowhere in the world does the old adage, "Hard work and perseverance will be rewarded," hold truer than the realm of the public-land waterfowler. Do your homework and go that extra two miles, and you may have that mallard hole to yourself.

Written and donated to the South Carolina DNR by  
M.D. and Julia Carol Johnson,  
on behalf of young waterfowlers everywhere

## Dove Management Area Regulations

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The following fields are open on a first-come basis. A Wildlife Management Area permit is required for all fields. Please consider the other hunters as well as the landowners whose cooperation makes these fields possible. Signs will be placed along roads directing hunters to the fields. All federal and state laws apply. Fields are open only on days and times indicated. **Fields denoted by an asterisk (\*) require hunters to sign in (not before 12:00 noon) and sign out on ALL hunts.** No species other than mourning doves and Eurasian collared doves may be hunted during scheduled dove hunts. Please remove all litter, including spent shell hulls, from fields when leaving!

**Don't forget to get a Migratory Bird Permit from your license vendor – it's required but it's Free!**

**Statewide Season Dates:** Sept. 1 - Oct. 11(Sept. 1-6 Afternoons only);  
Nov. 15 - Nov. 29; Dec. 13 - Jan. 15

**Bag Limit: Mourning Doves:** 15 doves per day. No limit on Eurasian collared doves.

**All Hunters Please Note! The following special regulations apply to ALL Wildlife Management Area Public Dove Fields:**

1. Hunters are limited to 50 shells per hunt
2. Dove hunting on all public fields is "Afternoon Only." No entry onto fields before noon
3. No shooting after 6:00 p.m. during the first segment of the season (Sept. 1 – Oct. 11)

### Abbeville

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#### 1. U.S. Forest Service

- Power of Partnerships Field - 5 mi. east of Abbeville on SC-72, ¼ mile south on Bass Rd., 60 acres.
- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Saturdays Only  
Beginning Sept. 20
  - Sept. 6 is Youth Hunt Only
  - Sept. 13 is Wheelin Sportsmen hunt.  
For information [http://www.nwtf.org/south\\_carolina/wheelin\\_events.html](http://www.nwtf.org/south_carolina/wheelin_events.html)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> season – Open Mon. – Sat.
  - (864) 223-2731

### Aiken

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#### 2. US Dept of Energy, Crackerneck WMA

- From SC 125/CR62 (Silverton Rd.) in Jackson, take Silverton 0.4 mi. to Main St., left on Main for 0.4 mi., then right on Brown Rd. for 2.1 mi. Turn left on gravel road, at end of pavement go 0.2 mi. to check station, 40 acres.
- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Sept. 3 & 17; 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> season – Fridays, Saturdays & Thanksgiving Day ONLY.
  - (803) 725-3663

### Anderson

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#### 3. Clemson University - Fant's Grove WMA

- From US 76/ SC 28 south of Clemson Take SC 187 to Fant's Grove Rd. 1.5 miles W, 45 acres.
- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Saturdays Only  
Beginning Sept. 6
  - FIELD CLOSED OCT 4
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Saturdays Only
  - (864) 654-1671 ext. 19

### Berkeley

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#### \*4. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Canal WMA

- (Above Powerhouse) From St. Stephen Take SC 45 west for 1.5 miles or continue to County Rd. 35. Go Left about .3 miles, 60 acres.
- Sept. 6, 20; Oct. 4; Nov. 22
  - (843) 825-3387

#### \*5. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Canal WMA

- (Below Powerhouse) From St. Stephen Take SC 45 E for 2.5 miles Turn Left on first paved road, (Arrowhead Landing Rd.) 40 acres.

## \*Berkeley Continued

- Dove Hunting Only - Sept. 6, 20; Oct. 4; Nov. 22.
- (843) 825-3387

## **\*6. Bonneau Ferry WMA Youth Only Dove Field**

From Moncks Corner, take Hwy 52 across the Tailrace Canal, then turn Right on Hwy 402 toward Cordesville. Continue on 402 for 9.1 miles; Bonneau Ferry front gate will be on the right (approx 1 mile after railroad tracks in Cordesville). 14 acres. Sept. 6, 20; Oct 4

- (843) 825-3387

## Charleston

### **7. Botany Bay Plantation WMA**

Located on Edisto Island south of Charleston. To reach WMA take Hwy. 174 from US17 towards Edisto Beach. Turn left onto Botany Bay Rd. (just beyond the Edisto Serpenterium), 8.5 mi. south of the McKinley Washington Bridge. Proceed down Botany Bay Rd. approx. 2 mi. until just before it ends, the entrance to the WMA is on the left. The dove fields are located approx. 2 mi. from the entrance. 70 acres.

- **All hunts are Youth Only (see Youth Hunt List for details)**
- (843) 869-2713

## Cherokee

### **8. Gaffney Board of Public Works**

From the intersection of I-85 (Exit 95) & Pleasant School Rd. (Sec. Hwy. 82) go 1.2 mi. north on Pleasant School Rd. around Lake Whelchel and field is on left (west) side of road, 20 acres.

- Saturdays Only Beginning Sept 6, Dove Hunting Only
- (864) 427-5140

## Chester

### **9. U.S. Forest Service - Worthy Bottoms**

10 miles west of Chester on SC 9, Left on Sec. Rd. 535, Turn Right on Worthy's Ferry Rd. 30 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season - Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Open Mon. - Sat.
- (864) 427-5140, (864) 427-9858



**WHEN YOU HUNT BIRDS THIS FALL, REMEMBER TO:**

1. Watch Your Muzzle!
2. Treat Every Firearm Due the Respect a Loaded Gun.
3. Be Sure of Your Target and What Lies In Front of and Beyond it.

**Hunting Safety Is No Accident!**

For more information on Hunter Safety and Hunter Education Classes, please visit [www.dnr.sc.gov](http://www.dnr.sc.gov)

# WMA - Public Dove Fields

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## Chesterfield

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### 10. SC Forestry Commission – Sand Hills State Forest, Wilkes Chapel Field

From Sand Hills State Forest Headquarters on US 1, Go south on Flory Pond Rd. for 1.3 miles, Right on Sec. Rd. 29 for .2 miles, Field on Right, 54 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season - Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Open Mon. - Sat.
- (843) 498-6478, (843) 661-4768

### 11. SC Forestry Commission – Sand Hills State Forest, Davis Field

From the intersection of US 1 and SC 102 in Patrick: Go southeast on SC 102 approx. 1 mi. bear left on SR 80 and proceed approx. 1.5 mi. Left on Campbell Lake Rd. Continue 0.2 mi. then left on Griggs Loop Rd. Field entrance 0.1 mi. on the right. 30 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Sept. 6 and Wednesdays Only, **beginning Sept. 17.**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons – Open Mon. – Sat.
- (843) 498-6478, (843) 661-4768

## Clarendon

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### 12. Santee Cooper – Santee Dam WMA

From Manning, take Hwy 260 south 13 miles to Wilson Dam. At gate, follow gravel road at base of dam 5 miles to dove field parking area. 90 acres.

- Sept. 6, 20; Oct 4; Nov. 29, Jan 3.
- Site information call (803) 673-8589.

### \*13. SC Forestry Commission – Oak Lea WMA.

From Summerton take SC 26 west for 2 mi. Go north on SC 41 for approx. 5 mi. Field on right. 102 acres.

- Sept. 6, 20; Jan. 3 & 10.
- Site information call (803) 673-8589.

## Colleton

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### 14. DNR - Donnelley WMA

From US 17 E. of Green Pond, Go southeast on Sec. Rd. 26 for 4 miles,

Turn Right at Donnelley WMA Sign, Field 2 miles on right, 80 acres.

- Sept. 6, 13, 20; Nov. 29
- (843) 844-8957

## Darlington

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### 15. DeWitt Property

From I-20 (Exit 137) go South on SC 340 (towards Timmonsville) 2.1 miles to Meander Rd. Right on Meander. Go 1.7 miles to Lake Swamp Rd. Right on Lake Swamp Rd. Go 0.5 miles to Oak Stump Rd. Bear left on Oak Stump. Field 1 mile on left. 50 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Seasons - Saturdays Only, Dove Hunting Only
- (843) 661-4768

## Florence

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### 16. Santee Cooper – Pee Dee Station Site WMA

Field is located in Kingsburg 4.7 miles north of US Hwy. 378 off State Rd. 57. Field on left (33°56'22.69" -79°29'45.37") 60 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Seasons - Saturdays Only, Dove Hunting Only.
- (843) 661-4768

## Georgetown

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### 17. DNR Samworth WMA

Follow Hwy 701 towards Conway from Georgetown. Take right on Choppee Rd. after crossing Black River. Choppee Rd. becomes Plantersville Rd. Turn right onto Samworth Loop. Turn left onto Benvenue Rd. Turn right onto Direlton Rd. at entrance to Samworth WMA. Follow to field. 35 acres. Dove Hunting Only.

- Sept. 6, 20; Oct. 4; Nov. 15; Dec. 13
- (843) 546-8665

## Hampton

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### \*18. DNR - Webb Wildlife Center

2.5 miles west of Garnett on Augusta Stage Coach Rd., 30 acres -

- Sept. 6, 20; Oct. 4; Nov. 19
- (803) 625-3569

### \*19. DNR - Hamilton Ridge WMA

4 miles west of Garnett on Augusta Stage Coach Rd, 30 acres.

- Sept. 6 & 20; Oct. 11; Nov. 22.
- (803) 625-3569

## Laurens

### 20. DNR Gray Court Field

From the town of Gray Court at the intersection of Sec Hwy 101 and Sec Hwy 14, go south on Sec Hwy 14 toward Laurens for 0.9 mile to the Fire Station, turn left on Dove Rd and go 0.3 mile and the parking area will be on the right. 15 acres.

- 1st season - Saturdays Only Beginning Sept 6
- 2nd & 3rd seasons Open Mon-Sat
- (864) 427-5140

### 21. DNR - Cliff Pitts WMA

From the intersection of US Hwy 76 and Sec Hwy 252 about 3 miles west of Laurens, go 8 miles west toward Ware Shoals on Sec Hwy 252; turn left on Armstrong Rd. which is a gravel road and proceed to the parking area. Gated road on the right out of the parking area goes to the dove field, 10 acres

- 1<sup>st</sup> seasons - Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons – Open Mon. - Sat.
- (864) 427-5140

## Lexington

### 22. Hallman Field

Get off of I-20 on Exit 39, turn left. Take Hwy 178 East for 2.4 mi. to Truex Rd. Turn left on Truex and go 1.2 mi. to Rish Dr. Turn right on Rish and go 0.1 mi. to parking area on left – 47 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Seasons - Saturdays Only, Dove Hunting Only

- (803) 725-3663

## Marlboro

### 23. DNR - Lake Wallace WMA

Northwest of Lake Wallace on Sec. Rd. 47 Bennettsville, Beauty Spot Rd., from Hwy. 9 (west of Bennettsville) turn left on Beauty Spot Rd., go 1.9 mi. Field on right. 50 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Seasons - Saturdays Only, Dove Hunting Only
- (843) 661-4768

## McCormick

### \*24. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -

Bordeaux Work Center Field – From intersection of Hwys. 28 & 378 in McCormick: Hwy. 378 west 5.5 mi. to Hwy. 7. Right onto Hwy. 7; go 3 mi. to S-33-135 (Willington Academy Dr.) Left onto S-33-135; go 1.5 mi. to S-33-110 (McIntosh Rd.) Left onto S-33-110; go 1.5 mi. to field entrance on the left. 40 acres.

- Sept. 6 & 17; Oct. 8; Nov. 26, Dec. 17; Jan. 7 & 15 only, Dove Hunting Only. Must sign in and out @ 1009 McIntosh Rd.
- (864) 223-2731

### 25. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Parksville Field

¼ mi. north of Parksville on Hwy. 28. 22 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season - Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Open Mon. - Sat.
- (864) 223-2731

### 26. U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers - Plum Branch Saddle Club Fields

From Plum Branch take S-33-57 (Collier St.) 2 mi. west, field on right in sharp-left curve. 30 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season - Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Open Mon. - Sat.
- (864) 223-2731

# WMA - Public Dove Fields

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## 27. U.S. Forest Service – Cunningham Fields

From intersection of Hwys 28 & 283 in Plum Branch: Hwy 283 E for 5 mi. to F688. Right onto F688; travel south for ¾ mi. until road forks. From the fork, one field is 0.3 mi. farther down F688 & the other is 0.6 mi. down F688B. 40 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season– Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Open Mon - Sat.
- (864) 223-2731

## 28. U.S Forest Service - McCombs Tract Field

11 mi. south of Abbeville or 10 mi. north of McCormick on Hwy. 28, 1.5 mi. west on SR-19 (Mars Bridge Rd.). One field on SR-19 and one field on F579. 60 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season– Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Open Mon - Sat.
- (864) 223-2731

## 29. U.S. Forest Service - Price Mill Field

From Parksville: Take S-33-138 (Price Mill Rd.) East 2.5 miles; Field on left. 60 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season– Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Open Mon - Sat.
- (864) 223-2731

## Newberry

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## 30. SCDOT McCullough Field

From I-26 North on Hwy. 121 towards Whitmire 9.2 mi. Right on McCullough Rd., 0.7 mi. Field on right. 30 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Seasons - Saturdays Only, Dove Hunting Only.
- (803) 360-1097

## \*31. Belfast WMA

From the intersection of US 76 (Wilson Rd) and SC 560 in Kinards go 5.9 miles southwest on SC 560; turn left onto SC 56. Go 3.9 miles; turn right at silver gate. Field is 0.5 mile ahead. 26 acres.

- **Sept. 6 is Youth Hunt Only;** Sept 13; Oct 4; Nov 27, 28, 29;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> season - Open Mon - Sat.
- (803) 360-1097.

## Oconee

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## 32. S.C. Forestry Commission - Piedmont Forestry Center

From SC 130 north of Salem Turn Left on SC 11 & follow signs to nursery, 18 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons - Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- **3<sup>rd</sup> season – Closed.**
- (864) 654-1671 ext. 19

## 33. U.S. Forest Service – Long Creek Tract

**In order to hunt, adults must have 1 or 2 youth age 17 or younger.** Disability hunters must contact the U.S. Forest Service Andrew Pickens office 864-638-9568 for permit requirements and access. From Westminster take Hwy. 76 to Long Creek, take a left on Orchard Rd., proceed ¾ mi. to field on right. 20 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Saturdays Only **Beginning Sept. 13**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> season – Open Nov. 22 Only
- 3<sup>rd</sup> season – Closed.
- 864-654-1671 ext. 19

## 34. U.S. Forest Service - Ross Mtn. Field

About 7 miles north of Walhalla on SC 28, Turn on Tunneltown Rd., Turn on Ross Mtn. Rd., Field on Both Sides of road, 35 acres.

- Open 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons, Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- (864) 654-1671 ext. 19

## Orangeburg

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## \*35. Santee Cooper - Santee Cooper WMA

From Santee, Take Highway 6 east approximately 12 miles to Eutaw Springs. Left on FredCon Rd. for 0.3 miles. Left on Ferguson Landing Road for 0.3 miles Left at Santee Cooper WMA sign. Field is 0.3 miles from entrance. 45 acres.

- Entire WMA under Dove Area Regulations.
- **Sept. 6 is Youth Hunt Only**
- Sept. 13; Oct. 4; Nov. 22; Jan. 3.
- (803) 673-8589

## Pickens

### 36. DNR Property

South of Pickens off Sec. Rd. 304 near SC Highway Dept. Bldg., 40 acres.

- Open 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons
- Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6. Dove Hunting Only
- (864) 654-1671 ext. 19

### 37. Clemson University-Gravelly WMA - Causey Tract

From SC 11 Go south on Sec. Rd. 112 at Cendy's Store, Turn east on Sec. Rd. 114 & Go 0.5 miles; 25 acres.

- Open 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons
- Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6.
- (864) 654-1671 ext. 19

### 38. DNR Property-Jocassee Gorges-Cane Creek Field

From intersection of SC 11 and Roy Jones Rd, go 2.2 miles west on Roy Jones Hwy., turn right on Granny Gear Rd. Go 0.2 miles and turn right on Cleo Chapman Hwy. Go 0.3 miles and turn left into Shooting Tree Entrance of Jocassee Gorges on Cane Creek Rd. Go 5 miles, field is beside road. 15 acres

- Open 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons, **Wednesdays Only Beginning Sept. 17**
- (864) 868-0281

## Saluda

### 39. SCE&G Saluda River Field

From the intersection of SC 34 (Main St) and SC 121 in Silverstreet go 3.4 miles southwest on SC 121; turn left onto Tosity Creek Rd. Go 0.8 mile, field on the right. 28 acres.

- 1st season - Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2nd & 3rd seasons - Open Mon-Sat.
- (803) 360-1097

### 40. US Forest Service Saluda Field (Sumter National Forest - Long Cane District)

From the intersection of US 178 (Main St) and US 378 (Church St) in Saluda go 10.6 miles west on US 378; turn right onto Old Goldmine Rd. Go 5.1 miles north; turn right onto Little Mountain Creek. Travel 1.5 miles; field on left. 69 acres.

- 1st season - Saturdays Only Beginning Sept 6
- 2nd and 3rd seasons - Open Mon-Sat.
- (803) 360-1097

## Spartanburg

### 41. Santee Cooper

From intersection of US 176 & West Main St. (Sec. Hwy. 227) approx. 2.5 miles W. of Pacolet, go 0.1 mile east on West Main St. and turn left on Goldmine Rd. (Sec. Hwy. 108) for 4.3 mi. then turn right on Hatchet Dr. Field at end of road. 15 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons – Open Mon. – Sat.
- (864) 427-5140

### 42. Spartanburg Co Parks Dept - Cherokee Springs Field

From the intersection of US Hwy 221 and Foster's Grove Rd (Sec Hwy 191) approx 8 miles north of Spartanburg, go west 1.1 miles on Foster's Grove Rd to RC Thompson Rd; field is on the left. 15 acres.

- Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6.
- Dove hunting only.
- (864) 427-5140

## Sumter

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S.C. Forestry Commission - Manchester State Forest

Directions from Wedgefield.

### 43. Bland Field 1 –

Take Hwy. 261 North 0.7 mi. to Bland entrance sign, turn right and follow dirt road to field. 50 acres.

- **Sept. 6 is Youth Hunt Only**

- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 13.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Open Mon - Sat. (Designated fields and the general forest).
- (803) 673-8589

### 44. Tuomey Field A – Take SC 763 (Wedgefield Rd) 4 mi. to stop sign. Right on St. Paul Ch. Rd., go 3 mi. to field on right. 50 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Open Mon - Sat. (Designated fields and the general forest).
- (803) 673-8589

### 45. Tuomey Field B – Take SC 763 (Wedgefield Rd) 4 mi. to stop sign. Right on St. Paul Ch. Rd., go 3 mi. to field on left. 20 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Open Mon - Sat. (Designated fields and the general forest).
- (803) 673-8589

## Union

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### 46. DNR Thurmond Tract

From the intersection of SC Hwy. 9 and SC Hwy. 49 at Lockhart go 4.3 mi. north on SC Hwy. 9 and the field is on the left (south) side of road. 15 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons open Mon. – Sat.
- (864) 427-5140

### 47. Sedalia (U.S. Forest Service)

From the intersection of SC 49 and Old Buncombe Rd. (Sec. Hwy. 18) near Cross Keys, go 3.6 mi. east on Old Buncombe Rd. and turn left on Sedalia Fire Tower Rd. (Sec. Hwy. 80) for 0.2 mi. and field is on left (northwest) side of road. 15 acres.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Open Mon. - Sat.
- (864) 427-5140, (864) 427-9858

### 48. US Forest Service - Herbert Field

From the intersection of SC Hwy 215, SC Hwy 72 and Pinckney St. in Carlisle, go south on Pinckney St. which turns into Herbert Rd (Sec Hwy 37) for 5.6 miles; turn right at the intersection of St. Luke's Rd. (Sec Hwy 359). Parking area is under the power line off St. Luke's Rd, 40 acres.

- **Sept. 6 is Youth Hunt Only**

- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 13
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Open Mon. - Sat.
- (864) 427-5140, (864) 427-9858

## York

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### 49. DNR - Draper Tract

3.5 miles E of McConnell on SC 322, Turn Right on Sec. Rd. 165 (Brattonville Rd.), Go .5 miles, Turn Right, 45 acres (two fields).

- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons Open Mon. - Sat.
- (864) 427-5140

### 50. York County – Worth Mountain WMA

From Hickory Grove at the intersection of SC Hwy. 97 and SC Hwy. 211, take Hwy. 211 South approx. 4 miles and turn left on Scenic View Rd, go .75 miles and field is on right. 40 acres planted.

- 1<sup>st</sup> season – Saturdays Only Beginning Sept. 6.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> seasons - Open Mon. - Sat.
- (864) 427-5140.

## Special Youth Dove Hunts:

Eligibility for these hunts requires adults 21 years or older to bring 1 or 2 youths 17 years of age and younger. The following regulations also apply on Special Youth Dove Hunts: (1) Adults accompanying youth are NOT allowed to shoot at any time during Special Youth Dove Hunts. (2) Adults must remain in the field and closely supervise participating youth at all times. (3) In parties of one adult and 2 youths, only one youth hunter may be handling a loaded firearm at any given time. (4) Bag limit is 15 birds per youth participant. Birds harvested by individual hunters must be kept separate, and in no instance may an individual hunter harvest more than 15 birds.

## PRE-REGISTRATION IS NO LONGER REQUIRED FOR YOUTH ONLY HUNTS

### Abbeville County Youth Hunt

U.S. Forest Service – Power of Partnerships Field

September 6 - **No pre-registration required.**

- (864) 223-2731

### Berkeley County Youth Hunt

Bonneau Ferry WMA

September 6, 20; Oct 4 - **No pre-registration required. See page 39 for directions.**

- (843) 825-3387

### Charleston County Youth Hunt

Botany Bay Plantation WMA

Sept. 6, 13; Nov. 22; Dec. 20; Jan. 10

**No pre-registration required. See page 39 for directions.**

- (843) 869-2713

### Newberry County Youth Hunt

SCDOT – McCullough Field

September 6 - **No pre-registration required.**

- (803) 360-1097

### Orangeburg County Youth Hunt

Santee Cooper – Santee Cooper WMA

September 6 - **No pre-registration required.**

- (803) 673-8589

### Sumter County Youth Hunt

Manchester State Forest near Wedgefield Bland Tract – Field 1.

September 6 - **No pre-registration required.**

- (803) 673-8589

### Union County Youth Hunt

U.S. Forest Service – Herbert Field

September 6 - **No pre-registration required.**

- (864) 427-5140

### York County Youth Hunt

DNR Draper WMA

September 6 - **No pre-registration required.**

- (864) 427-5140

# WMA - Waterfowl on Management Areas

## Category I Areas

Bear Island WMA  
Beaverdam WMA  
Bonneau Ferry WMA  
Broad River WMA

Clemson  
Donnelley WMA  
Sandy Beach WMA  
Santee Coastal Reserve WMA

Santee-Delta WMA  
Samworth WMA

**Hunting on Category I** Designated Waterfowl Areas is permitted only by means of special permit obtained through an annual drawing.

For applications contact: Public Drawing Hunts, SCDNR, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202 or visit our web site at [www.dnr.sc.gov](http://www.dnr.sc.gov) or your local DNR office.

## Category II Areas

Area	Open dates	County
Biedler Impoundment	Sat. AM only	Sumter
Carr Creek (within Samworth WMA)	Wed. and Sat. AM only	Georgetown
Ditch Pond	Wed. AM only	Barnwell
Dunaway WMA	Sat. AM only (5:00 AM entry)	Union
Duncan Creek WMA	Sat. AM only (5:00 AM entry)	Laurens
Dungannon WMA	Wed. AM only (No Hunting from Boardwalk)	Charleston
Enoree River WMA	Sat. AM only (5:00 AM entry)	Newberry
Great Pee Dee River HP WMA	Wed. AM only	Darlington
Hatchery WMA	Sat. AM only and until sunset on last Sat. of regular season	Berkeley
Hickory Top WMA	Federal Waterfowl seasons	Clarendon
Hickory Top Greentree Reservoir	Sat. AM only (5:00 AM entry)	Clarendon
Lake Blalock	Wed. AM only	Spartanburg
Lake Cunningham WMA	Wed. AM only	Greenville
Lancaster Reservoir	Mon. and Fri. AM only	Lancaster
Little Carr Creek (within Samworth WMA)	Wed. and Sat. AM only	Georgetown
Little Pee Dee River Complex	Wed. AM only	Marion, Horry
Marsh	Wed. and Sat. AM only	Marion
Monticello Reservoir WMA	Wed. and Sat. AM only	Fairfield
Moultrie WMA	Mon. through Sat.	Berkeley
Parr Reservoir WMA	Mon. through Sat.	Fairfield
Potato Creek Hatchery	Wed. and Sat. only	Clarendon
Russell Creek WMA	Wed. and Sat. AM only (5:00 AM entry)	McCormick
Sampson Island Unit (Bear Island WMA)	Thurs. and Sat. AM only	Colleton
Santee Cooper WMA	Sat. AM only	Orangeburg
Turtle Island WMA	Wed. and Sat. AM only	Jasper
Tyger River WMA	Sat. AM only (5:00 AM entry)	Union
Wee Tee WMA	Wed. and Sat. AM only	Williamsburg
Woodbury	Wed. and Sat. AM only	Marion
Waccamaw River HP	Wed. and Sat. AM only	Horry
40 Acre Rock	Sat. AM only	Lancaster

**Hunting on Category II** Designated Waterfowl Areas is permitted only during specified days and times during state waterfowl seasons.

## General Waterfowl Management Area Regulations

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### Category I And Category II

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**Hunting on Category I** Designated Waterfowl Areas is permitted only by means of special permit obtained through an annual drawing.

For applications contact: Public Drawing Hunts, SCDNR, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202 or visit our web site at [www.dnr.sc.gov](http://www.dnr.sc.gov) or your local DNR office.

**Hunting on Category II** Designated Waterfowl Areas is permitted only during specified days and times during state waterfowl seasons.

### Designated Waterfowl Or Dove Management Areas

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Unless specially designated by the SCDNR as a Waterfowl or Dove Management Area, all WMAs and Hunt Units are open during the regular season for hunting and taking of migratory birds except where restricted to special small game seasons within the regular migratory bird framework.

The Department may designate sections of Wildlife Management Areas and other lands and waters under the control of the Department as Designated Waterfowl Management Areas or Designated Dove Management Areas. In addition, the Department may set special shooting hours, bag limits, and methods of hunting and taking waterfowl and doves on those areas. All State and Federal migratory bird laws and regulations apply. Regulations pertaining to the use of Dove Management Areas will be filed annually.

On Designated Waterfowl Areas, no species other than waterfowl may be taken during waterfowl hunts. On Designated Dove Management Areas no species other than doves may be taken during dove hunts. Only dove hunting is allowed at Lake Wallace.

### Non Toxic Shell Requirement

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On all State-owned, US Forest Service and other Federally owned Category I and II Waterfowl Management Areas each hunter is limited to 25 Federally approved non-toxic shells per hunt.

### Hunting From Blinds

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On areas where blinds are not provided, only portable blinds which are removed at the conclusion of the hunt or temporary blinds of native vegetation may be used. Temporary blinds once vacated may be used by other hunters.

### Fishing Restrictions

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No fishing is permitted in any Category 1 Designated Waterfowl Management Area during scheduled waterfowl hunts.

### Consent To Search

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Entry onto WMA land constitutes consent to an inspection and search of the person, game bag or creel.

# WMA - Waterfowl on Management Areas

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## WMA - Specific Details

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### **Biedler Impoundment (Sumter County)**

**Latitude: 33.8 Longitude: -80.556**

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Open Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Carr Creek (Georgetown County)**

**Latitude: 33.463 Longitude: -79.183**

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Open Wednesdays and Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Ditch Pond (Barnwell County)**

**Latitude: 33.419 Longitude: -81.466**

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Open Wednesdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Dunaway WMA (Union County)**

**Latitude: 34.7096 Longitude: -81.456**

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Open Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season. Data cards are required for hunter access during scheduled waterfowl hunts. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving. Hunters may not enter prior to 5:00 AM.

### **Duncan Creek WMA (Laurens County)**

**Latitude: 34.5246 Longitude: -81.7988**

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Open Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season. Data cards are required for hunter access during scheduled waterfowl hunts. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving. Hunters may not enter prior to 5:00 AM.

### **Dungannon WMA (Charleston County)**

**Latitude: 32.757 Longitude: -80.194**

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Open Wednesdays AM only during regular waterfowl season. NO HUNTING IS ALLOWED FROM BOARDWALK.

### **Enoree River WMA (Newberry County)**

**Latitude: 34.432 Longitude: -81.422**

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Open Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season. Data cards are required for hunter access during scheduled waterfowl hunts. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving. Hunters may not enter prior to 5:00 AM.

### **Fant's Grove WMA (Pickens County)**

**Latitude: 34.623 Longitude: -82.83**

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Open AM only on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the regular migratory bird seasons;

## **WMA - Waterfowl on Management Areas**

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### **Francis Marion National Forest (Berkeley and Charleston Counties)** **Latitude: 33.1619 Longitude: -79.8291**

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Waterfowl hunting on the **Hellhole, Wambaw, Santee, and Northampton WMA** units is closed during scheduled dog hunts for deer. Waterfowl hunting on the **Waterhorn WMA** unit is closed during any scheduled deer hunt.

### **Great PeeDee River Heritage Preserve WMA (Darlington County)** **Latitude: 34.388 Longitude: -79.705**

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Open Wednesdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Hamilton Ridge WMA (Hampton County)** **Latitude: 32.618 Longitude: -81.359**

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Open AM only for waterfowl hunting during special small game seasons within the regular migratory bird seasons.

### **Hatchery WMA (Berkeley County)** **Latitude: 33.256 Longitude: -80.084**

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Hunters must leave the area by 1 PM, except on the last Saturday of waterfowl season when hunters may hunt until sunset. No airboats are allowed in the Hatchery WMA for hunting or fishing during the period Nov. 15 - Jan. 31. No fishing allowed during scheduled waterfowl hunts.

### **Hickory Top WMA (Clarendon County)** **Latitude: 33.607 Longitude: -80.481**

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Public waterfowl hunting without a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) permit is allowed on all land and water below 76 ft. 8 in. in elevation. Waterfowl hunting at or above elevation 76 ft. 8 in. in elevation requires a WMA permit.

### **Hickory Top Greentree Reservoir (Clarendon County)** **Latitude: 33.607 Longitude: -80.481**

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Open Saturdays during regular waterfowl season. Closed to all public access Nov. 1 until Mar. 1 except during scheduled hunts. Hunting hours are from 30 minutes before legal sunrise until 11:00 AM. Hunters may not enter the area prior to 5:00 AM on hunt days. No open season on roads or dikes. Hunters may use only electric motors on boats. All hunters must accurately complete a data card and deposit card in receptacle prior to leaving the area.

### **Lake Blalock (Spartanburg County)** **Latitude: 05.15 Longitude: 53.18**

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Open Wednesdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

## **WMA - Waterfowl on Management Areas**

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### **Lake Cunningham WMA (Greenville County)**

**Latitude: 34.987 Longitude: -82.284**

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Open Wednesdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Lancaster Reservoir (Lancaster County)**

**Latitude: 34.702 Longitude: -80.751**

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Open Mondays and Fridays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Little Carr Creek (Georgetown County)**

**Latitude: 33.467 Longitude: -79.178**

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Open Wednesdays and Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Little PeeDee River Complex (Marion And Horry County)**

**Latitude: 34.091 Longitude: -79.255**

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Open Wednesdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Marsh WMA (Marion County)**

**Latitude: 33.948 Longitude: -79.468**

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Open Wednesdays and Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Monticello Reservoir WMA (Fairfield County)**

**Latitude: 34.327 Longitude: -81.313**

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Open Wednesdays and Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Moultrie WMA (Berkeley County)**

**Latitude: 33.379 Longitude: -80.081**

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Open Monday through Saturday during regular waterfowl season.

### **Palachucola WMA (Hampton County)**

**Latitude: 32.599 Longitude: -81.284**

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Open AM only for waterfowl hunting during special small game seasons within the regular migratory bird seasons.

### **Parr Reservoir WMA (Fairfield County)**

**Latitude: 34.315 Longitude: -81.362**

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Open Monday through Saturday during regular waterfowl season.

### **Potato Creek Hatchery Waterfowl Area (Clarendon County)**

**Latitude: 33.53313 Longitude: -80.27023**

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Closed to all hunting and fishing access one week prior to and two weeks after the Federal Waterfowl Season, except for scheduled waterfowl hunts. No fishing one week prior to opening of waterfowl season through January 31. All hunters must enter and leave the Potato Creek Hatchery Waterfowl Area through the designated public landing on secondary road 260 and complete a data card and deposit card in receptacle prior to leaving the area. No airboats are allowed for hunting or fishing and no hunting from secondary road 260.

### **Russell Creek WMA (McCormick County)**

**Latitude: 34 Longitude: -82.549**

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Open Wednesdays and Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season. Data cards are required for hunter access during scheduled waterfowl hunts. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving. Hunters may not enter prior to 5:00 AM.

### **Sampson Island Unit (Colleton County)**

**Latitude: 32.599 Longitude: -80.421**

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Open Thursdays and Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Santee Cooper WMA (Orangeburg County)**

**Latitude: 33.411 Longitude: -80.292**

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Open Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Tillman Sand Ridge WMA (Jasper County)**

**Latitude: 32.494 Longitude: -81.207**

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Open AM only for waterfowl hunting during special small game seasons within the regular migratory bird seasons.

### **Turtle Island WMA (Jasper County)**

**Latitude: 32.06 Longitude: -80.903**

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Open Wednesdays and Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Tyger River WMA (Union County)**

**Latitude: 34.608 Longitude: -81.632**

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Open Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season. Data cards are required for hunter access during scheduled waterfowl hunts. Completed data cards must be returned daily upon leaving. Hunters may not enter prior to 5:00 AM.

## **WMA - Waterfowl on Management Areas**

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### **Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve (Horry County)**

**Latitude: 33.905 Longitude: -78.729**

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Open Wednesdays and Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Webb WMA (Hampton County)**

**Latitude: 32.596 Longitude: -81.308**

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Open AM only for waterfowl hunting during special small game seasons within the regular migratory bird seasons.

### **Wee Tee WMA (Williamsburg County)**

**Latitude: 33.357 Longitude: -79.759**

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Open Wednesdays and Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.

### **Woodbury Waterfowl Management Area (Marion County)**

**Latitude: 33.775 Longitude: -79.29**

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Open Wednesdays and Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season. Includes all SCDNR-owned property south of US Hwy 378 and bounded on the west by the Great Pee Dee River and Bluff Road and to the east by the Little Pee Dee River except no waterfowl hunting allowed in the area known as Hass Pond that is bounded on all sides by Hass Pond Road.

### **40-Acre Rock (Lancaster County)**

**Latitude: 34.6593 Longitude: -80.5169**

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Open Saturdays AM only during regular waterfowl season.



**AD Space  
HERE**

**AD Space  
HERE**